

PROTECTING AGAINST TERRORISM

How real is the threat of terrorist attack? Are cities, counties, state government and localities vulnerable to deliberate terrorist attacks? Yes, according to statistics. Worldwide in the past thirty years or so, there have been more than 10,000 bombings, 7,000 hijackings, 3,500 assassinations, 1,000 kidnappings, and property damage well in excess of \$200 billion. These numbers and events used to seem abstract and distant. After September 11, they are all too real and we can never go back to that innocent level of concern.

Risk management is an excellent tool to assist an organization respond to the threat of terrorists. Unfortunately, one cannot predict if, when, where or what kind of terrorist attack will occur. Nevertheless, proper pre-loss planning – being organized and prepared – is a fundamental basis of effective risk management.

Although a single terrorist attack may be a low probability, it can have high impact and the potential for catastrophic results for an organization caught unprepared. Be prepared to respond in a coordinated, organized and efficient manner. An anti-terrorist plan that is a part of a broader emergency management or business continuity plan will assist in being better prepared for the worst-case scenario.

There are many resources available on the subject of terrorism on the Internet, from state and federal agencies, and in the media. Please take advantage of the resources available to you.

To assist, we are providing the addresses of some informational web sites. Use these resources to integrate into your agency's emergency plans.

<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel01/mueller101601.htm>

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/Agent/Anthrax/Anthrax.asp>

<http://www.usps.com/news/2001/press/serviceupdates.htm>

<http://www.fema.gov/library/terrorf.htm>

<http://www.stimson.org/cwc/persprot.htm>

<http://www.vdem.state.va.us/>

<http://www.nfrmag.com/backissues/mayjun2001/feature1.asp>

<http://www.atf.treas.gov/pub/index.htm>

<http://www.safety.ambest.com/checklist/chap14a.html>

http://www.hrtools.com/c_home.html

<http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/emerg/response/ergbomb.htm>

http://aiic-insurance.com/loss_control/how-to-manual_of_safety.htm

http://www.ncci.com/nccisearch/news/infostop/safework/sw05_2000_4a.htm

PROTECTING AGAINST TERRORISM

1. **Awareness** - Train all security and maintenance personnel to spot suspicious-looking or unfamiliar people or objects.
2. **Communication** - Teach employees the importance of awareness; encourage them to identify and report anything that appears out of the ordinary.
3. **Screening** - Develop and implement systems for identifying and controlling visitor access to buildings and property.
4. **Inspection** - Establish strict procedures for the control and inspection of packages, mail and materials delivered to buildings, particularly those intended for critical areas.
5. **Procedures** - Instruct all employees, particularly those working telephone switchboards and reception areas, on what to do if a bomb or other threat is received.
6. **Surveillance** - Instruct security and maintenance personnel to routinely check unattended public or open areas, such as rest rooms, stairways, garages and storage areas and elevators.
7. **Lighting** - Make sure all of a facility's access points are well lighted.
8. **Systems Awareness** - Unexpected interruptions in a building's fire or security systems may not be coincidental; train employees to identify and address them immediately.
9. **Local Authorities** - Maintain active contact with local government agencies—law enforcement, fire, medical, rescue, search, removal and disposal; to determine their procedures for dealing with terrorist activities and threats and how your program can coordinate with theirs.
10. **Contingency** - Assure adequate protection and off-site backup for classified and critical documents, proprietary information, and activities essential for the continued operation of your activities.